

THANKING AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I rise today to commend the Maryland, Virginia, and Federal law enforcement agencies on the capture and arrest of the snipers who terrorized our region. For the citizens of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, life slowly returned to normal after the 23 days of sniper shootings in October, but life will never return to normal for the families of the victims who were killed, and those who are still recovering from their injuries. I would like to extend my sympathies to those families and to say that our hearts go out to them in this difficult time.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the police forces in our region, the sniper attacks were stopped before they could do more harm. An unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among the different jurisdictions involved, as well as among the Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies, led to the capture of the two individuals now charged in the sniper attacks. The task force created during the sniper attacks did an excellent and effective job of sharing information, working together, and putting the safety of our citizens first. I thank all of the men and women who worked so tirelessly to apprehend the suspects and commend them for a job well done.

The Federal Government also played an important role in the investigation. The FBI provided support to State and local police forces in conducting the manhunt, the ATF helped track and research the guns and bullets used by the snipers, and the Department of Defense provided planes to monitor the region from the air. On October 8, I wrote a letter to Attorney General Ashcroft stating my support for Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose's request for Federal aid in the investigation, and I am extremely grateful that Federal aid was granted.

While it is impossible to thank all of those involved, I would like to acknowledge by name the resolve, extraordinary dedication and performance of Montgomery County, Maryland Police Chief Charles Moose and County Executive Doug Duncan, FBI Special Agent Gary Bald, and ATF agent Mike Bouchard, who became the public face of the crisis and the investigation for people all across the country. Their leadership, calm determination, and obvious skill in the most trying and tragic of circumstances, without precedent in our area, helped inform and assure the public that everything possible was being done.

Now that this multistate manhunt is over, the States involved must deal with the financial costs of the investigation. In order to assist area States in paying for these costs, I joined with Senators MIKULSKI, WARNER and ALLEN in a letter to the Department of Justice requesting Federal reimbursement for the enormous costs of the investigation. I am confident that these sus-

pects will be brought to justice and that this may provide some small measure of comfort for those who lost loved ones in these attacks.

The 23 days in October were a trying time for our area and the uncertainty of the sniper attacks unnerved residents of the region. The weight of this concern has been lifted, thanks to the hard work of our area law enforcement agencies. But for the families of those killed in the attacks, their loss will never be remedied and for them the weight will never be lifted.

We must move forward and reflect on the lessons learned from these tragic attacks. All jurisdictions involved, as well as the expanding number of jurisdictions in which these two suspects allegedly committed crimes, must now focus on preparedness. We have learned how effective the coordination of law enforcement agencies can be, and we must plan for such coordination in the future. And we in Congress can take steps to help States improve preparedness, coordinate law enforcement agencies, and use tools such as ballistic fingerprinting to prevent this from ever happening again.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred June 5, 2001 in El Monte, CA. Three Latino men were accused of a hate crime after beating an African-American teen at a party and using racial epithets. The victim, who was dancing with a Latina woman at the time of the attack, suffered cuts to the mouth; a friend who came to his aid received abrasions to the face. One of the assailants fired a gun into the air before fleeing the party.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RECOGNIZING THE 227TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, on November 10th, we honored the 227th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps. For more than two centuries, the U.S. Marine Corps has exemplified the highest virtues of commitment, service, and sacrifice. From the Barbary Coast to the far reaches of the Pacific, in the jungles of Vietnam and across the vast

expanse of the Arabian desert, America's Marines have lived up to their motto: "Semper Fidelis."

Through the long march of our history, the U.S. Marine Corps has built a proud tradition. The smallest of the four service branches, they have typically been the "tip of the spear" of American military might. U.S. Marines have been among the first troops dispatched to international crises over the past century. Always apace with world dynamics, they have expanded their expertise to encompass the entire spectrum of conflict from humanitarian assistance to major theater war. Amphibious Forces have demonstrated—in times of crisis and frequently on very short notice—that they possess a capable and formidable "package" of ships and Marines to meet the threat across the full spectrum of modern conflict.

Our Marines have protected America's interests, struggled against foes that meant harm to our national security and that of our allies, and remained at the forefront of our Nation's efforts to maintain global peace and stability. From Lebanon to Bangladesh to Somalia, Marines restored and maintained order, aided people in distress, provided protection for the weak, and upheld the values that have come to define our country on the world stage. Many also made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country, and we honor their memory.

America's Amphibious Forces remain the force of choice in responding to crises in this uncertain world. When, in the early part of this year, this nation resolved to liberate Afghanistan from an oppressive regime and take action upon terrorist aggressors, it was again the United States Marine Corps who got the call—and responded valiantly. Despite Afghanistan's isolation, the first sustained U.S. military operation ashore was conducted by the 15th and 26th Marine Expeditionary Units, an expeditionary force that was deployed, organized and launched from the USS *Peleliu* and USS *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Groups. These two MEU's seized and established the first in-country staging base (Rhino, nearly 400 nautical miles inland), secured the Kandahar airport (another 200 miles) and established a base from which quick-reaction operations could be conducted to further track down Taliban and al-Qaida forces.

Amphibious ships with embarked Marine forces are one of the most formidable power projection capabilities in the world and represent our Nation's only sustainable forcible-entry capability. In peace and in war, their value has been ever-present.

Always faithful, our Marines are men and women of greatness. Tough and dedicated, they are truly the best America has to offer. For 227 years, they have stood for all that is great about this Nation. Their values, sense